

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4482

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 3497

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR, CM, ECIN, PROF

SUBJ: FRENCH-CAMEROONIAN RELATIONS

1. DURING RETURN CALL ON NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR HUBERT DUBOIS I INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A VISIT TO CAMEROON OF A "DIALOGUE MISSION" SUCH AS THAT HEADED BY STEPHANE HESSEL WHICH RECENTLY VISITED SENEGAL AND UPPER VOLTA.

2. DUBOIS STATED THAT SUCH A MISSION WAS INDEED COMING TO CAMEROON, PROBABLY IN THE LATTER HALF OF NOVEMBER. HE WOULD HAVE WELCOMED HESSEL AS HEAD OF THE MISSION BUT THE MAN CHOSEN IS HIS (DUBOIS) SUCCESSOR AS DIRECTEUR DE CABINET OF THE MINISTER OF COOPERATION. THE SUCCESSOR HAS HAD NO AFRICAN EXPERIENCE AND HENCE THE EXPOSURE TO CAMEROON SHOULD BE USEFUL FOR HIM (PERHAPS MORE SO THAN FOR CAMEROON HE IMPLIED).

3. DUBOIS STATED THAT THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF THESE "DIALOGUE MISSIONS" IS TO RETHINK WITH LOCAL LEADERS THE NATURE OF THE FUTURE COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE RESPECTIVE FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD BE MOST RESPONSIVE TO THEIR RESPECTIVE NEEDS AND POSSIBILITIES. IT IS MORE OF A PHILOSOPHIC THAN PRAGMATIC EXERCISE. IN HIS VIEW, HOWEVER, (AND NOT RPT NOT FOR REPEATING TO OTHERS,) THE APPROACH IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CAMEROON SHOULD BE PRAGMATIC. IN THE GURC OUTLOOK THE AGREE-

MENTS CONCLUDED WITH FRANCE LAST FEBRUARY HAVE ALREADY GIVEN
A NEW ORIENTATION TO FRENCH-CAMEROONIAN COOPERATION AND THE
EFFORT NOW SHOULD BE TO BUILD ON THIS.

4. DUBOIS STATED THAT MINISTER OF COOPERATION ABELIN WOULD
ALSO BE COMING TO CAMEROON BEFORE LONG. FROM OTHER SOURCES
WE UNDERSTAND HE IS BEING INVITED TO INAUGURATION OF TRANSCAM
RAILROAD AT NGAOUNDERE NOW SCHEDULED DECEMBER 10.
MOORE

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